

Message Text

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63

ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00

COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /031 W

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R 211335Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2187

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 2818

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BPRO

SUBJ: FCIA CREDIT INSURANCE REQUESTS FOR CREDIT INSURANCE TO
COVER SALES OF EQUIPMENT TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

REF: STATE 249164

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL G.M. REPRESENTATIVE INFO IN
REFTEL, PARA 1B IS INCORRECT. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES (MANR) CONSIDERING PURCHASE OF 200 FARM
TRACTORS INSTEAD. MANR ALSO CONSIDERING PURCHASE OF SIX
CRAWLERS (AS REFTTEL) AND SPARE PARTS FOR TRACTORS PREVIOUSLY
PURCHASED. TOTAL VALUE OF DEAL ESTIMATED ABOUT \$4,200,000.

2. G.M. REP. SAYS MANR IS ATTEMPTING FINANCE EITHER WITH
PORTION OF HOPED-FOR LIBYAN LOAN WHICH PRESIDENT STEVENS
ATTEMPTING OBTAIN OR WITH COMMERCIAL FINANCING THROUGH
EUROPEAN (SWISS?) BANKS. ACCORDING G.M. REP, EXIMBANK
FINANCING IS DISTANT THIRD CHOICE, AFTER ARAB MONEY AND
EUROPEAN COMMERCIAL BANK ALTERNATIVES.

3. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN ATTEMPTS CONFIRM
PLANNED END USE OF EQUIPMENT. G.M. REP HAS DECLINED
INFORM EMBASSY WITH WHOM IN MANR HE IS DEALING OR WHO IN
MANR ACTUALLY PLACED ORDER, THOUGH HE STATES BOTH MINISTER
S.A.T. KOROMA AND PERMSEC MASON ARE "AWARE" OF MATTER.
BOTH MINISTER AND PERMSEC OUT OF COUNTRY FOR EXTENDED
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PERIOD. OTHER MANR OFFICIALS EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED

APPEAR KNOW VERY LITTLE OR BE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF PROPOSED PURCHASE.

4. IN VIEW OF PARLOUS STATE AND PROSPECTS SIERRA LEONE FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION AND FUZZY CHARACTER THIS PROPOSED TRANSACTION, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AGAINST FAVORABLE EXIMBANK CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED TRANSACTION.
SAMUELS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: buchant0
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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